

INFORMAT~~SECRET~~REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)
SUBJECT Soviet Tank Tactics and Policy
Observed in Germany

50X1-HUM
DATE DISTR. 23 June 1948

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. 50X1-HUM

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION FOR THE RESEARCH
USE OF TRAINED INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS

1. The following are the methods used by Soviet tank regiments when operating on divisional and army scale and using rhomb or "Raute" tactics in the attack. Sketches are attached. 50X1-HUM

- a. The leading tank brigade (No. 1) (sic- presumably regiment) of the leading "Raute" tank corps (sic- presumably division) partially deploys, breaks into the enemy defensive positions and drops off its accompanying infantry and specialists troops, who immediately consolidate the new position.
- b. The rear tank brigade (No. 4) then advances, bringing up men, material, and supplies. Its tanks surround the new strong-point and new infantry positions and strengthen or replace the damaged or knocked-out tanks of the leading tank brigade. The reserve brigades also come up so that the corps "Raute" is restored.
- c. The second tank corps subsequently takes over the gap made in the enemy's defences and assumes the role of a new tank spear-head, the first corps going into reserve.
- d. In the case of the break-through being successful and initial strong-points captured, the infantry which was dropped off join up with the main body of the formation as soon as they can be spared, by means of armored troop-carriers.
- e. The strength of a tank corps when attacking in "Raute" formation is 9,000 to 10,000 men in all ranks.

2. On the orders of the Supreme Command of the Soviet Army all tank drivers now have to serve on tours of duty of at least ten years' duration. The preamble to the order runs as follows:

"The experience, knowledge, and capabilities of for instance an engine driver increase with each year that passes, with a result that he finally becomes master of his machine. It is illogical that tank drivers should be transferred to the reserve after two or three years and their knowledge and experience be wasted, while new recruits have to be trained before they can relieve experienced drivers".

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Class. CHANGED TO: TS S (6)

DDA Memo 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG 77/1222

Date: APR 27

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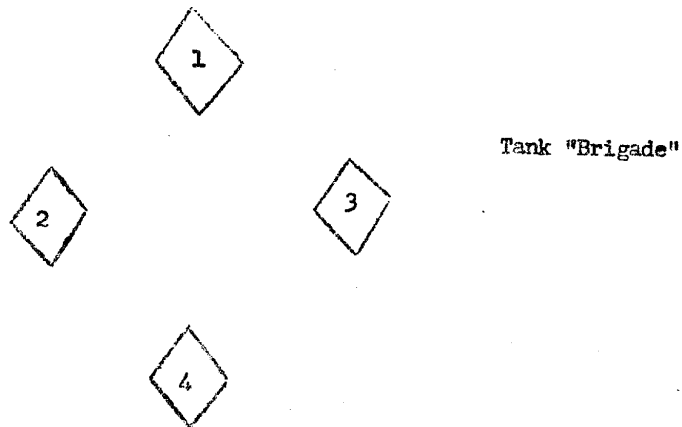
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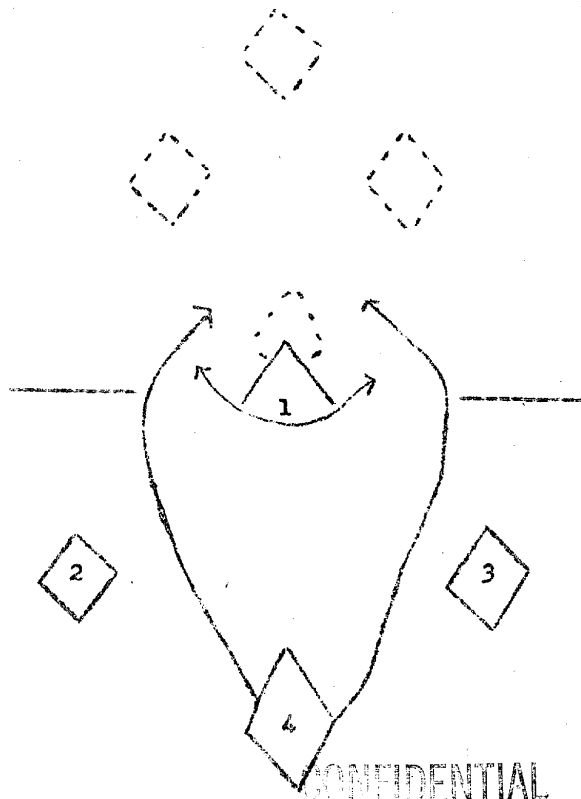
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"Raute" "Corps" Before Breakthrough

Enemy Defensive Positions



"Raute" "Corps" - Breakthrough



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